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Inventor(s): Karapasha

S.N.: 10/621,709

Filed: July 17, 2003

Case: 9330

Comments:

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/621,709
 Applicant(s) : Karapasha
 Filed : 07/17/2003
 Title : Applicator Having an Indented Fingergrasp with Raised Portions
 TC/A.U. : 3761
 Examiner : Hill
 Conf. No. : 1538
 Docket No. : 9330
 Customer No. : 27752

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
 Commissioner for Patents
 P. O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
 Dear Sir,

This Brief is filed pursuant to the appeal from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Final Office Action of August 22, 2005. A timely Notice of Appeal was filed on September 22, 2005.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is The Procter & Gamble Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.

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RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no known related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-20 are rejected.

Claims 1-20 are appealed.

A complete copy of the appealed claims is set forth in the Claims Appendix attached herein.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments are presented.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The present invention is directed to a tampon applicator. The tampon applicator comprises an insertion member. The insertion member is adapted to house a tampon and to receive the plunger. The insertion member has an outer surface and a fingergrip region disposed about the outer surface. The fingergrip region comprises an indentation region having a depth dimension X. The indentation region comprises raised portions having a height dimension Y. The height dimension Y of the raised portions is less than (claim 9) or equal (claims 1 and 15) to the depth dimension X of the indentation region.

GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Campion et al. (US 5,346,468).

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ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Campion et al. (US 5,346,468). This rejection is traversed for numerous reasons.

Campion et al. discloses a tampon applicator having embossed rings (18) with slight depressions (21) formed on either side of the embossed rings. In the Office Action the depressions (21) are considered equivalent to the claimed indentation region while the embossed rings (18) are considered equivalent to the claimed raised portions.

First, independent Claims 1, 9 and 15 each require that the indentation region comprise raised portions. That is, the indentation region comprises multiple raised portions and not a single raised portion. Even if one accepts the Examiners interpretation of Campion et al. with respect to the dimensions of the indentation and raised portion (which the appellant does not), Campion et al. fails to disclose multiple raised portions within the indentation region. Campion et al. only discloses a single raised portion 18 within the alleged indentation region. Thus, Campion et al fails to anticipate independent Claims 1, 9 and 15.

Second, the Office Action has taken a rather unique interpretation of Campion et al. in order to create its' anticipation rejection. That is, the Office Action is using the raised portion 18 of Campion et al. as part of the X dimension of the indentation region. If one were to accept the unique interpretation of the Office Action then the Appellants own invention as shown in Figure 1 would be outside of the claim scope. That is, the X dimension of the indentation region would always be less than the Y dimension of the raised portion. Clearly this unique interpretation cannot be correct.

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Appellants have set forth below a revised drawing of Fig. 1 to illustrate how one would measure the X dimension according to the Office Action's unique interpretation. As can be seen from the revised drawing, the X dimension is considerably less than the Y dimension.

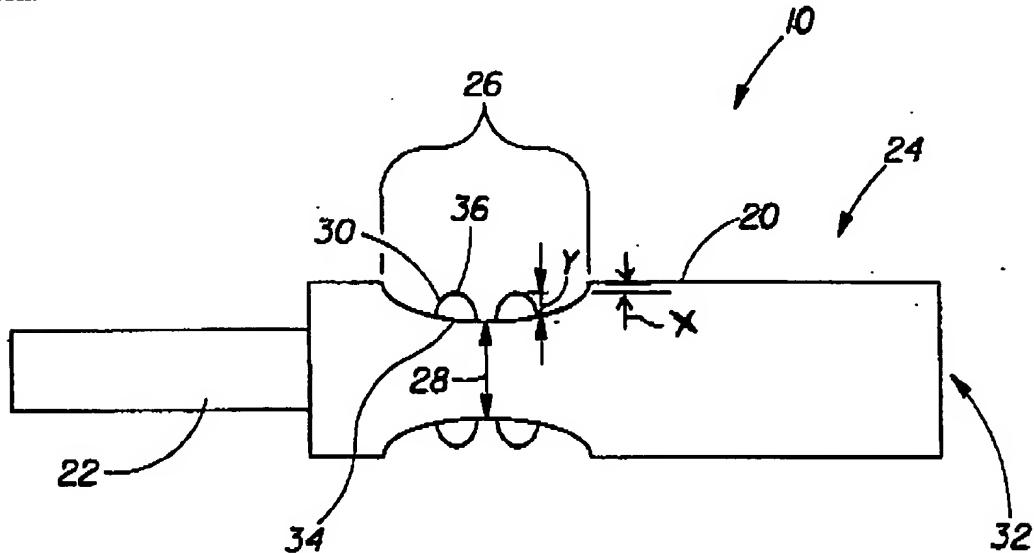


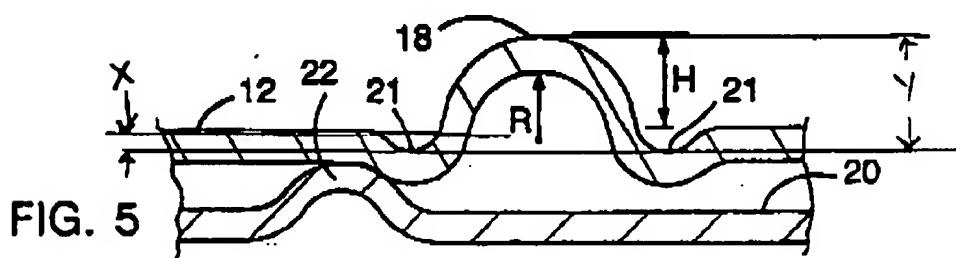
Fig. 1

(Revised)

It is the Appellant's position that the interpretation proffered by the Office Action is incorrect and should be ignored. Thus, Campion et al. fails to anticipate independent claims 1, 9 and 15.

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Third, a correct reading of Campion et al. clearly shows that Campion et al. fails to anticipate independent Claims 1, 9 and 15. The depth dimension X of the depressions (21) is to be taken from the outer surface of the insertion member 12 to the lowest point of the indentation region. See page 5, lines 29-31 of the specification. The height dimension Y is to be taken from its' base to the highest point of the individual raised portion. See page 6, lines 8-11 of the specification. As can be seen from the reproduced Fig. 5 of Campion et al. below, Campion et al. clearly teaches a structure in which Y is considerably larger than X. Such a structure does not anticipate independent claims 1, 9 and 15 of the appellants' invention which require height dimension Y to be less than or equal to depth dimension X.



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With respect to Claims 1-20, the Appellant respectfully submits that the Office Action has failed to show that Campion et al anticipates Claims 1, 9 and 15, from which Claims 2-8, 10-14 and 16-20 depend.

The Appellant respectfully appeals the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 USC 102(b).

SUMMARY

In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims be allowed on appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY



Signature

Kevin C. Johnson

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (original) A tampon applicator comprising:
an insertion member adapted to house an absorbent tampon and receive a plunger;
said insertion member having an outer surface and a fingergrip region disposed about said outer surface;
said fingergrip region comprising an indentation region having a depth dimension X;
said indentation region comprising raised portions having a height dimension Y; said height dimension Y being less than or equal to said depth dimension X.
2. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 1 wherein said tampon applicator is comprised of paper.
3. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 1 wherein said depth dimension X is from about 1 mm to about 10 mm.
4. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 1 wherein said height dimension Y is from about 0.1 mm to about 10 mm.
5. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 1 wherein the tampon applicator is comprised of plastic.
6. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 1 wherein the indentation region has a shape selected from the group consisting of oval, circular, rectangular, trapezoidal, triangular, hemispherical and mixtures thereof.
7. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 1 wherein the raised portions have a shape selected from the group consisting of ovals, circles, rectangles, trapezoids, triangles, cones, alphabet letters, and mixtures thereof.
8. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 1 wherein the raised portions are arranged in a pattern.

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9. (original) A tampon applicator comprising:
an insertion member adapted to house an absorbent tampon and receive a plunger;
said insertion member having an outer surface and a fingergrip region disposed about said outer surface;
said fingergrip region comprising an indentation region having a depth dimension X;
said indentation region comprising raised portions having a height dimension Y; said height dimension Y being less than said depth dimension X.
10. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 9 wherein said tampon applicator is comprised of paper.
11. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 9 wherein said depth dimension X is from about 2 mm to about 5 mm.
12. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 9 wherein said height dimension Y is from about 0.2 mm to about 5.0 mm.
13. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 9 wherein the raised portions are arranged in a pattern.
14. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 9 wherein the patterns are selected from the group consisting of flowers, ovals, circles, rectangles, trapezoids, triangles, cones, alphabet letters, and mixtures thereof.
15. (original) A tampon applicator comprising:
an insertion member adapted to house an absorbent tampon and receive a plunger;
said insertion member having an outer surface and a fingergrip region disposed about said outer surface;
said fingergrip region comprising an indentation region having a depth dimension X;
said indentation region comprising raised portions having a height dimension Y; said height dimension Y being less than or equal to said depth dimension X;
wherein said tampon applicator is comprised of paper.

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16. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 15 wherein said depth dimension X is from about 2.5 mm to about 3.5 mm.
17. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 15 wherein said height dimension Y is from about 0.5 mm to about 2.5 mm.
18. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 15 wherein the indentation region has a shape selected from the group consisting of oval, circular, rectangular, trapezoidal, triangular, hemispherical and mixtures thereof.
19. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 15 wherein the raised portions have a shape selected from the group consisting of ovals, circles, rectangles, trapezoids, triangles, cones, alphabet letters, and mixtures thereof.
20. (original) The tampon applicator according to Claim 15 wherein the raised portions are arranged in a pattern selected from the group consisting of flowers, ovals, circles, rectangles, trapezoids, triangles, cones, alphabet letters, and mixtures thereof.